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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,769	12/12/2003	Matthias W. G. Fuertges	213202.00489	8728
27160	7590	01/23/2006	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 525 WEST MONROE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60661-3693			TWEEL JR, JOHN ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2636	

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/733,769

Examiner

John A. Tweel, Jr.

Applicant(s)

FUERTGES, MATTHIAS W. G.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview Summary dated 1/13/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1/19/06
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard Bauer on 1/13/06.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Page 3: Before the heading "Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments" please insert the following:

#### **"BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS"**

FIG. 1 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional schematic view of an example of a first embodiment according to the present invention where each conductor comprises a round, bare electrically conductive material such as wire.

FIG. 2 illustrates a wiring diagram for the arrangement of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional schematic view of an example of an in-line sandwich embodiment according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a wiring diagram for the arrangement of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional schematic view of an example of a modification of the in-line sandwich embodiment according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional schematic view of an example of a bridge sandwich embodiment according to the present invention.

FIG. 7 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional schematic view of an example of an alternate bridge sandwich embodiment according to the present invention.

FIG. 8 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional schematic view of an example of a modified bridge sandwich embodiment according to the present invention.

FIG. 9 illustrates a vehicular seat having sensors therein.

FIG. 10 illustrates a sensor according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 illustrates an exploded view of the FIG. 10 sensor.

FIG. 12 illustrates the FIG. 10 sensor affixed to a seat bottom.

FIG. 13 illustrates a schematic perspective view of the electrically conductive fibers and non-electrically conductive fibers according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 14 illustrates another schematic perspective view of the electrically conductive fibers and non-electrically conductive fibers according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 15 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the sensor according to the present invention.

FIG. 16 is a schematic cross-sectional view of the resting state of the FIG. 15 sensor.

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FIG. 17 is another schematic cross-sectional view of the weight-applied state of the FIG. 15 sensor.

FIG. 18 illustrates another embodiment of the sensor according to the present invention.

FIG. 19 illustrates yet a further embodiment of the sensor according to the present invention.

FIG. 20 is a schematic circuit diagram of an embodiment of the present invention particularly well suited for use in a backrest.

FIG. 21 is a schematic circuit diagram of an embodiment of the present invention particularly well suited for use in a seat bottom.

FIG. 22 is a schematic circuit diagram of another useful embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 23 is a schematic circuit diagram of a further useful embodiment of the present invention.”

3. Claims 1-25 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Using electrodes on seats is not new in the prior art. The passenger detector taught by **Serban et al** [U.S. 6,737,953] uses an electrode deposited on a woven fabric. However, there is no prior art that teaches a first and second conductor disposed

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transversely to define a first junction, with a first and second conductance produced in the absence and presence of applied weight.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. The replacement drawings were received on 11/17/05. These drawings are acceptable.

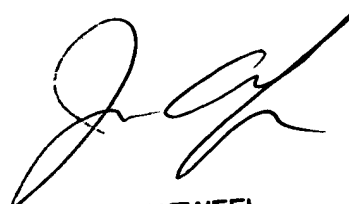
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Tweel, Jr. whose telephone number is 571 272 2969. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on 571 272 2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAT  
1/19/06



JOHN TWEEL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER